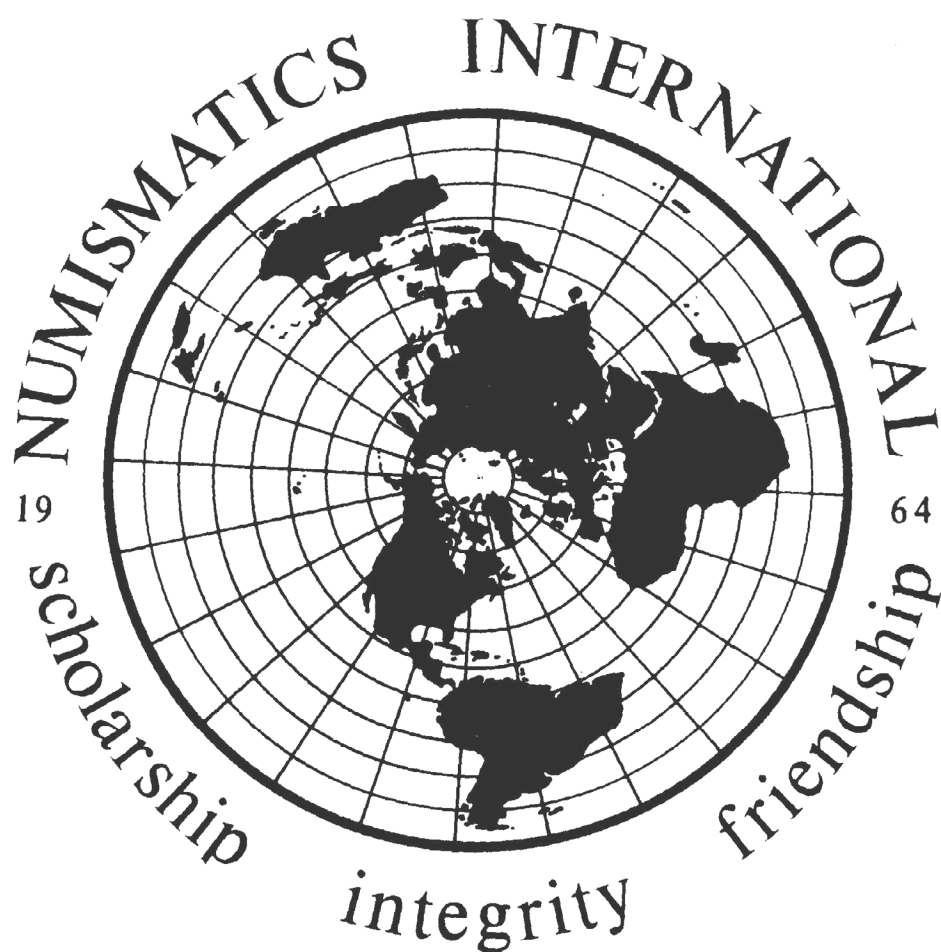


# NI Bulletin

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P.O. Box 989 Deltaville, VA 23043-0989

e-mail: HADaniel3@msn.com

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e-mail: rossschraeder1@yahoo.com

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By the time you read this the summer auction season will be nearing an end and the autumn auctions will be coming soon. If you are actively adding pieces to your collection you've no doubt noticed the marked increase in prices for better coins.

This is an abbreviated bulletin because the NI Mail Bid sale is bundled with it in order to manage postage fees. I want to thank Alan Luedeking for his continued support with editing and proof reading. Also thanks to Jim Martin for his help with editing as well as for his management of the NI website.

Finally, I want to thank our professional members for supporting NI, specifically Stacks-Bowers and Ponterio for distributing application forms as an insert in their ANA auction catalog. If you want to promote NI you can download application forms from the NI website or request some by mail at the Dallas address. As always, I appreciate your support.

Herman Blanton

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## **Coins Countermarked with Political Messages and Related Pieces**

**Gregory G. Brunk, NI #749**

**(Continued from May / June 2011 *NI Bulletin*)**

### **Catalog: Parts G & H (Germany - Hungary)**

© 2011, Gregory G. Brunk  
GregoryGBrunk.Num@Gmail.com

#### **— Germany —**

### **Inflation Countermarks**

Economic history books note that the German hyperinflation of the early 1920s was so great that people were paid twice a day. If their wives did not spend the paper marks that were earned in the morning, they would have little value by evening. A coin dealer satirized the situation in 1923 by countermarking genuine German silver coins and silver-plated brass copies of old talers with wildly inflated values (Keller 1952). The series consists of two separate, rectangular stamps. Each coin was countermarked twice. One stamp reads MARK. The other is an imaginary value.

The countermarks sometimes appear on high quality copies of old talers that were struck by the Laurer private mint of Nuremberg. These Laurer copies are exceedingly well made and were struck to seem slightly worn. A microscopic “Laurer Nurmberg” signature appears somewhere on the obverse and reverse fields, but if the signature is removed—as often is the case—it is almost impossible to recognize they are copies. It seems reasonable to assume that Laurer was the source of the countermarks, but that has not been verified.

### **100 000 in Depressed Rectangle and MARK in Depressed Rectangle**

Prussia Vereinstaler: 1861

Prussia Two Mark: 1903

Prussia Three Mark: 1910, UK

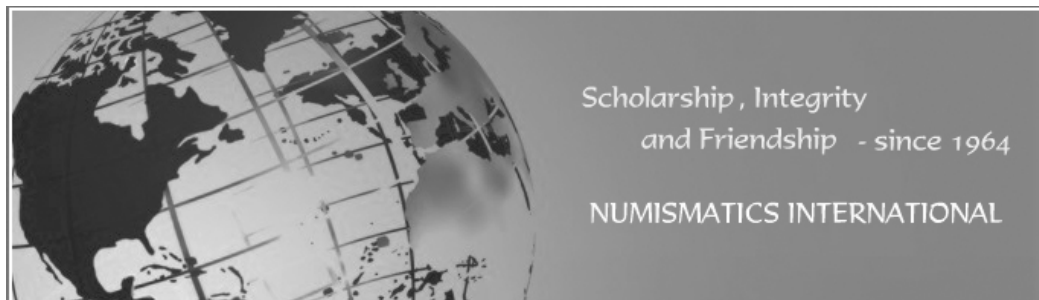
The following are very well executed, silver-plated copies.

Brandenburg Taler: 1545

Julich Siege Thirty-Two Sols: 1621

Transylvanian Taler: Moises Szekely (1602-1603)

Trent Tallero: 1530





**Laurer copy of 1530 Trent Taler**



**Laurer copy of 1545 Brandenburg Taler**



**Laurer copy of Transylvanian Taler of Moises Szekely (1602-1603)**

To reference the NI Library Catalog:  
<http://www.numis.org/index-5.html>



**Laurer copy of 1621 Siege of Julich Thirty-Two Sols**



**Prussian Two Mark**



**Prussian Three Mark**

**500 000 in Depressed Rectangle and MARK in Depressed Rectangle**

Bavaria Three Mark: 1912

Prussia Taler: 1829, 1855

To access the NI discussion group on Yahoo!  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/numismatics/>



**Prussian Taler**



**Bavarian Three Mark**

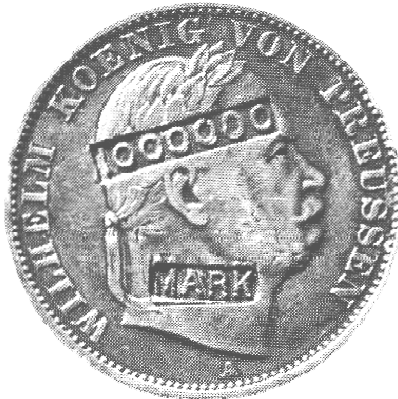
**1 000 000 in Depressed Rectangle and MARK in Depressed Rectangle**

Prussia Taler: 1812, 1866

Prussia Five Mark: 1875, 1898, 1899

Saxony Taler: 1838

Saxony Five Mark: UK



**Prussian Taler**



**Saxon Taler**

**BILLION in Depressed Rectangle and MARK in Depressed Rectangle**

Prussia Three Mark: 1913

Prussia Five Mark: 1876

Saxony Taler: 1833, 1837, 1838

Saxony Five Mark: UK



**Prussian Three Mark**



**Saxon Taler**

### **TRILLION in Depressed Rectangle and MARK in Depressed Rectangle**

Danzig Five Gulden: 1923

Hesse-Darmstadt Two Taler: 1842

Saxony Taler: 1837

Saxony Two Taler: 1856

Saxony Five Mark: UK

German New Guinea Five Marks: 1894



**Saxony Five Mark**



**Hesse-Darmstadt Two Taler**



**Danzig Five Gulden**



**German New Guinea Five Mark**

### **Applied Hats**

While it seems likely that other German satirical countermarks exist, so far none have been reported. Nevertheless, quite a few pre-war German three and five marks have a hat, usually a business hat soldered over the monarch's head. Most of them are coins of Emperor William II, but occasionally hats appear on rulers of the German states. Some coins of William II also are engraved with a hat, and one of them is dated. The engraved hat on a 1911 three marks reads RAUS MIT DER 1918 and refers to the emperor's abdication in 1918.

All of the hats are slightly different and were made individually. Dickerson (1978) thought they are funeral hats, and the coins symbolized the end of the German Empire and its replacement by a republic. NI member Reinhold Jordan tells me they



probably refer to the phrase *seinen hut nehmen*, which means “To take one’s hat.” Until the 1950s, upper class males wore hats in public, and establishments would have a check room for your coat and hat. So “To take one’s hat” meant that a person was going to leave, and in politics it meant resignation or abdication. Indeed, a close inspection of German coins with applied hats revealed that one also has an applied overcoat, and so this interpretation seems to be correct.

What was puzzling to me is why no German coins are known where the ruler’s bust is defaced, which would be expected if the purpose of the hats was to attack William II and the princes before the fall of the German Empire at the end of the First World War. Similar pieces with hats also exist for South Africa, and at least one coin of President Paul Krueger has been looped so it could be worn as a medal or attached to a watch chain. Two of the pieces noted below also have hats that clearly are not business hats. So it seems likely these German coins with applied hats were made during the 1920s by jewelers and sold as souvenirs of “The Good Old Days.” If this hypothesis is correct, a reader might be able to find an advertisement for such coins in the German newspapers or coin publications of the twenties.



**Various style hats on three mark coins of Emperor William II**



**Five Mark**  
**Slightly different style business hats on five mark coins of William II**



**Very large hat  
 with overcoat**



**Three Marks of William II  
 1913, with hunting cap**



**With 1918 abdication  
 legend**



**Three Mark**  
**Bavaria 1914 three mark of Ludwig III with business hat.**



**Three Mark**  
**Saxon 1910 three mark of Frederick August III**  
**With what certainly is not a funeral hat!**



**Five Mark**  
**A rare 1888 Prussian five mark of William II with a business hat.**

## References

Keller, Arnold. 1952. "Ein Numismatisches Märchen," *Berliner Numismatische Zeitschrift* 1952: 312-316.

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## Membership Report

The following persons have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by November 1, 2011 the memberships are effective that day.

- 2740 Steve Shapiro, 25140 Baronet Rd, Salinas, CA 93908-8920. Early American Colonial, de Medici era, pre 1707 Scotland, early Europe.
- 2741 Shah M. Rahman, 88-34B 183 St., Jamaica, NY 11423. British Colonial.
- 2742 Max Keech, 3970 Woodside Rd., Woodside, CA 94062. Latin America.

## Hungary

### Communists

*Coin World* reported in 1975 that pengo and two pengo coins dated 1941 and 1943 and countermarked with a hammer and sickle could then be found in Hungarian museums. As is typical of many writings on political countermarks, the article went on to speculate wildly and suggested the pieces were identification tokens of the People's Partisan Army that opposed the German occupation. This sort of unsubstantiated, secret society explanation for political symbols is very common, particularly in auction listings. Why? The invention of a story is a strategy that sellers use to try to increase the value of such pieces.

Given the great number of fakes and fantasies that appeared on the market during the 1960s and 1970s, it seems more likely that these countermarked coins were made for coin collectors. Or they were sold in the Hungarian equivalent of tourist traps. The condition of the few countermarked pieces that have been illustrated is mint state. In other words, they were neither put back into circulation, nor used as identification tokens that were carried in a partisan's pocket. All the currently known specimens also are from the same punch.

#### Hammer and Sickle

Pengo: 1941 (2), 1942, 1943

Two Pengo: 1941, UK



**Pengo**



**Two Pengo**

### References

Coin World. 1975. "Hungary Coin Counterstamp Made by WW II Partisans?" *Coin World* Sept. 3: 46.

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*NI*

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### Member Notice

Wanted in undamaged, extremely fine or better condition: Serbia (German Occupation) KM 30, 50 Para 1942 and KM 31 One Dinar 1942. Prefer coins as close to uncirculated condition as possible. Robert Plemmons, Ph.D., 147 Rhoads Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

*NI*

**Morocco, 10 Mithquals of Mohammed III**  
**Stacks-Bowers and Ponterio, NI #1221**



(Illustrated approx. 2× actual size)

**Morocco. Mohammad III (AH 1171-1204 (1757-90). Gold. 10 Mithquals (10 Riyals), AH 1201 (1787). Madrid Mint. Fr-4; KM-PnA1 (previously C#45); Cadoury-pg. 303#1.**

The first machine struck coin of Morocco, and the first coinage ever ordered by an Islamic Republic from a European mint. Authorization to produce this issue was granted January 13, 1787 under Sultan Mohammad III. Although listed in some references as a pattern, this issue was clearly intended for circulation. In June of 1787, patterns were dispatched from Madrid to Morocco to seek the approval of the Sultan. After some design modifications approval was given to begin production September 22, 1787. A total of 10,000 pieces were struck from bullion being stored in the city of Tangier.

Although well executed, for multiple reasons this issue was destined for failure. The first reason was logistical, as the shipment arrived late, after the death of Mohammad III. The new Sultan Muhammad al-Yazid would not want to place these coins of the previous ruler into circulation. The coins also bear the name of the Madrid Mint in Arabic. This would compromise their acceptance among the Moroccan people as there was tension between the two countries. Needless to say, nearly the entire mintage was recalled and melted down. Gadoury states "less than ten examples survive," some of which we have to assume are impounded in museum collections.

Reprinted from Stacks-Bowers and Ponterio The Auction 2011 Chicago ANA Auction, August 12-20, 2011. Lot 21305.

*NI*

## **Gran Colombia One-Real Pattern, c. 1825**

**Jorge Emilio Restrepo, NI # 2708**

Gran Colombia (or Great Colombia) was formed in 1819 after the Battle of Boyacá as federal republic with capitals in Bogotá, Caracas and Quito. Today these cities are the respective capitals of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. Gran Colombia also included Panamá, parts of Central America and territories today in Brazil and Perú. Historians refer to this first Republic of Colombia as Gran Colombia to differentiate it from the present Republic of Colombia.

Recently a previously unreported pattern has surfaced and we know of two specimens each of which differ slightly from the other.



**Figure 1**

Silver uniface pattern struck in Potosí c. 1825. Plain edge, slanted reeded border, 23 mm, 4.45 g. Normal coin alignment (the reverse is in upright position, when the piece is rotated on its horizontal axis). No value in the design. The device details differ from those of the accepted design for the one real coin 1827-36.

Obverse: Arms of Gran Colombia, fasces with halberd in the middle arc and arrows in the front and cornucopias at both sides. The arrows widen at the top, due to the feathers. The cornucopias contain flowers. Reverse: Empty, except for a faint trefoil wreath and the mint "EN POTOSI" at the top.



**Figure 2**

Figure 2 shows is a second specimen as previous but with differences in the devices, i.e., the halberd does not reach to the border, the contents of the cornucopias are different, the borders are plain, etc. The reverse shows the same legend, "EN POTOSI," in somewhat different position. In the middle the letters "N" and "M" and while they are separated there is no trace of anything between them. So far we've no information on the meaning of these letters.

These two pieces are compatible with a pattern design in evolution.

Below is an image of the adopted design. The diameters range 18-26 mm and the mass 1.9-2.8 g. They were made in both the Bogotá and Popayán mints.



Figure 3

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*NI*

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### Quiz

Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134

This quiz concerns countries beginning with N, O, P, or Q. Is Qatar in there? Check to find out. I used the 31st Edition of SCWC (1901-Present) and the 3rd edition of the 19th Century SCWC for the information.

1. Beatrix, Van Gogh, Maastricht Treaty
2. Vicuna, Admiral Grau, Pachacutec
3. Tuatara, Kiwi, Maori Warrior
4. Carlos I, Henry the Navigator, Joao
5. Fort Buraimi, Al Hazm Castle, Arabian White Oryx
6. Barbary Sheep, Diror Hamani, Ostriches
7. Chopin, Jozef Pilsudski, Marie Curie
8. Pithecophaga, Pandaka Pygmaea, Tamara Bull
9. Great Indian Rhinoceros, Snow Leopard, Conquest of Mt. Everest
10. Uracca, Balboa, Fernando de Lesseps

*NI*

## Brabant: Double Souverain of Charles II, 1667

Jean Elsen & ses Fils, NI #2696

Translated by Francisco Miller



Brabant, Duchy, Charles II (1665-1700), AV double souverain, 1667, Antwerp. Double weight piedfort. Obv.: Crowned infantile bust facing right, wearing the collar of the Golden Fleece. Rev.: Crowned shield surrounded by the collar of the Golden Fleece. Ref.: G.H., -; Delm., -; W., -; Fr., -. 22.09 g. Unpublished and unique.

Charles II was four years old when (his father) Philip IV died. His reign was nothing but a long list of troubles for our provinces. Drawing an excuse from the fact that the young king was born from Philip IV's second marriage while his (Louis XIV) wife was from the first marriage, Louis XIV claimed the Brabant by right of devolution and invaded the Spanish Netherlands. After 1667, France led five successive wars, claiming a little bit of territory each time. The southern Netherlands would become the battle field of Europe, where the Dutch, English, German, Austrian and French armies would confront each other. Poorly paid, these armies lived off the land and looted the local populations. These wars of devolution also saw the first massive use of artillery against cities. In four days, the marshal of Villeroy (Francois de Neufville) destroyed Brussels (1695). Peace was not concluded until 1697 with the treaty of Ryswick. From a numismatic point of view, the beginning of Charles II's reign saw no notable innovation in our provinces, continuing projects already started under the reign of Philip IV. The double souverain in gold was made in Antwerp in 1666. This spectacular piedfort from 1667 is one of a kind and very new for the era. It is missing from all the reference books.

Article from Jean Elsen & ses Fils auction 109, June 18, 2011.

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NI

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Quiz answers. 1. Netherlands 2. Perú 3. New Zealand 4. Portugal 5. Oman 6. Niger 7. Poland 8. Philippines 9. Nepal 10. Panama



**A Coin of the Fuggers Wrongly Attributed for Ever**  
**A Kipper 4 Pfennig: Wilhelm Zu Pfirt or Georg Von Babenhausen-Wellenburg?**  
**Robert Ronus, NI #LM139**

Many U.S. collectors of foreign coins rely on the Krause *Standard Catalogs of World Coins*. The editors of this massive publication obviously have not researched every coin themselves. Most of their information is taken from earlier reference books and auction catalogs. The same is true for many other standard reference books we use. The amount of truly original research is quite small, much of it done by pioneers in the nineteenth century, or earlier, or by modern academics published in specialist magazines. As a result, a wrong attribution can take on a life of its own and infect reference books around the world. A case in point is a humble copper 4 Pfennig issued by a member of the Fugger family in the disastrous Kipper \* period (1618-23) when the disruptions of the Thirty Years' War resulted in numerous debased coins being issued by rulers and towns all over Germany and accelerating inflation.

The fabulously wealthy banking and merchant Fugger family were descended from Joachim Fugger, a 14th century weaver in Graben, near Augsburg. His great-grandchildren became bankers to the Habsburgs and in 1534 Emperor Charles V made the Fuggers hereditary counts of Kirchberg and Weissenhorn (in Swabia) and gave them the mint right. The family divided into two main lines, the elder or 'Raimundine' line founded by Raimund von Mickhausen and the younger or 'Antonine' line founded by Anton I von Norndorf. Both main lines had numerous sub-branches but only about a tenth of the family issued coins. Furthermore, some of the minor coins did not bear the issuer's name.

The uniface copper kipper 4 Pfennig illustrated here (enlarged) is a good example.



**Obverse: 4 (value) over 2 lilies (the Fugger family arms), below W, in wreath.**

Josef Neumann published his massive 7 volume *Beschreibung der bekanntesten Kupfermünzen* (Description of known Copper Coins) in 1858 and this coin is listed as issued in the period 1620-22 by Wilhelm Fugger, Count of the line in Pfirt (Neumann 6551). He apparently believed the W referred to Wilhelm, the only Fugger at the time whose name began with W. He also describes a type with a countermark, the initials IZ over a church and tower (Neum. 6552). J.V. Kull published the standard reference

work for Fugger coins in 1889 and he also has our coin attributed to Wilhelm (Kull 34) and also mentions the countermarked issue.

In March 1924 the extraordinary Kipper coin collection of Wilhelm Kraaz was auctioned by the Halle firm of A. Riechmann. Among the 1150 lots offered was the Fugger coin (lot 737), attributed again to Wilhelm of the *Linie Pfirt* with the reference Kull 34. (Incidentally, I was surprised to see that the buyer's commission was 25%, with Riechmann offering to execute orders for an additional 5%!)

From Germany the attribution to Wilhelm spread around the world. The prolific Belgian numismatist Jean René de Mey published his catalog of German Copper Coins in 1986 and the coin appears as de Mey 1 under Guillaume (French for William) of the Raimondine Pfirt Line. In the United States the collector O.P. Eklund published a comprehensive catalogue of "Copper Coins of German States" in *The Numismatist* in 1963 and the coin appears in the Fugger section under 'William (Born in 1585)' without mentioning which line of the family (Ekl. 456). Finally, Krause's *SCWC, 1601-1700, 4th edition* (and the new *Catalog of German Coins, 1501-Present*) has the coin listed as KM 5 under Duchy of Fugger-Pfirt with the ruler Wilhelm zu Pfirt (1601-59).

But was the coin really issued by Wilhelm? In 1924, the same year as the Kraaz sale and perhaps stimulated by it, Johannes Bürklin published an article in the Bavarian Numismatic Society magazine (the same magazine that published Kull's work), arguing that the W on the coin stood for Wasserburg and that the coin was issued by Georg IV, Count of Fugger-Babenhausen-Wellenburg and lord of Wasserburg. Bürklin's arguments make sense to me and I do not understand why they have been ignored by so many for so long.

Pfirt (Phirta or Ferreta in Latin, Ferrette in French) is in Alsace, today in France. The first documentary reference to a count of Pfirt is in a marriage document of 1125. They received the mint right in 1225 and coins of Ulrich I (1234-75) are known. Ulrich II, the last count of Pfirt of the family, died in 1324 and the county fell into the hands of his daughter's husband, Albrecht, son of the Habsburg Emperor Albrecht I. The Habsburgs had acquired the landgraviate of Alsace in 1275 and Pfirt was absorbed into it.

When Raimund Fugger died in 1535, his properties were divided between his two sons, Johann Jakob (1535-75) and Georg II (1535-79), who took Kirchberg and Weissenhorn. Johann Jakob apparently purchased the Pfirt estate, in Alsace, some distance from the family's main landholdings in Swabia, in 1540 and founded the Fugger-Pfirt branch of the family. The Pfirt properties were subdivided by subsequent generations. Wilhelm Count Fugger, the grandson of Johann Jakob, was born in 1585 and died in Salzburg in 1659. He appears to have ruled Pfirt jointly with his brother Karl.

Bürklin makes the point that the Habsburgs did not allow anyone else to strike coins in Alsace at this time. The Habsburgs may no longer have owned the estate but they still used the title of Count of Pfirt and the Pfirt arms. An example is the Taler of

Archduke Maximilian III, brother of Emperor Rudolf II and Landgrave of Alsace from 1602 until his death in 1618, illustrated here (Dav.3326).



**Obv: MAXIMILIANVS: D: G: ARC: AV(stria): DV(ke): BV(rgundy): STIR(Styria): CARIN(thia). Bust r. with lion's head on shoulder, at rt. 1615. Rev. ET: CARN(iola): MAG: PRVSS: ADM (grand master of the Teutonic Order): LAND(grave): ALS(ace): COM: FER(retae=Pfirt). Crowned shield with cross fleury with eagle in center (arms of Teutonic Order) and in angles arms of Hungary, Bohemia, Austria & Burgundy and Tyrol & Habsburg, dividing 2 small crowned shields with arms of Alsace (diagonal with 6 crowns) and Pfirt (2 fish).**

A Fugger, like Wilhelm, might be a Count *zu* (at) Pfirt but the Habsburgs were still Counts *von* (of) Pfirt. Finally, the reference books mentioned do not list any other coin as being minted in Pfirt. Bürklin's belief that the 'W' on the coin stands not for a person but for the mint of Wasserburg thus seems to make sense. Georg IV, Count of Fugger-Babenhausen-Wellenburg (1598-1643) came from the Antonine side of the family. The properties of his father, Jakob Fugger, were divided among four sons, of whom Georg was the eldest. His inheritance included the lordship of Wasserburg, an island on Lake Constance. According to Bürklin, in 1621 Georg installed a mint in a mill on the island. In the gathering chaos of the 30 Years' War, mints were springing up all over Germany and issuing debased 'kipper' coinage. Georg seized the opportunity. There is a kipper 12 Kreuzer in his name, dated 1622 and without date (Kull 83-86, KM 8). His title on the 12 Kreuzer (or Zwölfer) is:

**GEORG.FVGG.PR(effect).SV(=Swabia).D(ominus=lord).I(n).WASS(erburg)**

The design of the coin appears to be copied from the Zwölfer of the Bishops of Chur, in Switzerland on the other side of Lake Constance, which would have made it more easily acceptable in the whole Lake Constance region. Kull says the mint of these coins is unknown but Krause attributes them to Wasserburg. Indeed, there is evidence of mint activity there at the time. Bürklin reports that a pot of Fugger kipper coins was found near the castle on Wasserburg and that at the end of July 1622 the town council of Lindau, also on the lake, decreed that Kempten and Wasserburg Zwölfer should no longer be accepted by the city Customs Office.

If Georg struck kipper 12 Kreuzer at Wasserburg, it seems quite likely he also struck kipper 4 Pfennige, like the one in this article.

In any case, Bürklin's attribution seems to be getting attention again. Meister & Sonntag of Stuttgart offered one of these copper 4 Pfennig in their Auction 7 on April 7 2009 (lot 811). They attributed it to Georg IV of Fugger-Babenhausen-Wellenburg and cited Bürklin's article.

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- Neumann, Josef: 1858. *Beschreibung der bekanntesten Kupfermünzen, Volume I*. Prague. (Reprint by Johnson Reprint Corporation, New York, 1965.)
- Nicol, N. Douglas & others. 2011. *Standard Catalog of German Coins, 1501-Present*, 3rd edition. Iola, Wisconsin: Krause Publications.

\* Note: *Kipper* and *Wipper* period.

"With the outbreak of the war, expenditure on arms rose dramatically. A conscious decision was then made to debase the coins by using those coins still in circulation with a higher silver content as the raw material for new coins. Buyers set out across the country in search of these higher quality coins. The German term "Kipper and Wipper period" is actually derived from their practices. Coin scales (Wippen) which quickly tipped (kippen) if a coin was of the proper weight were used to sort the higher-quality coins from the lower-quality coins." Source: Deutsche Bundesbank.  
[http://www.geldmuseum.de/download/kipper\\_wipperzeit.en.pdf](http://www.geldmuseum.de/download/kipper_wipperzeit.en.pdf)

*NI*

## Sicily, Syracuse - Masterful Display of Numismatic Art CNG



This coin type, the subject of Boehringer's study in *Florilegium Numismaticum*, is one of the most exquisite examples of numismatic art in the classical period. The obverse shield is certainly influenced by the shield held by the sitting Athena found on the balustrade of the temple of Athena-Nike on the Akropolis at Athens. Boehringer points-out that the die used for the present coin (V1) is the most similar to this sculpture. He regards the reverse of an athlete (an unprecedented motif in Sicilian numismatics) as masterful and lifelike, and compares this image to two contemporary gemstones from Greece and Etruria that reside in the Oxford and Berlin museums.

SICILY, Syracuse. Second Democracy. 466-405 BC. AV Tetralitron (3.47 gm). Struck circa AD 406. ΣΥΠΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ around broad rim of circular shield ornamented with a facing gorgoneion / Ephebos, in the form of a naked athlete, standing left, holding strigil in his right hand with which he is removing oil from his left knee. C. Boehringer, "Ehrenrettung einer syrakusanischen Goldmünze" in *FlorNum*, pg. 74, 1 (V1/R1); C. Boehringer, "Zu Finanzpolitik und Münzprägung des Dionysios von Syrakus" in *Essays Thompson*, pl. 38, 11 (same obverse die); SNG ANS -; SNG Lloyd -; SNG Copenhagen -; Jameson -; Rizzo -; Gulbenkian -; Pozzi -; Weber -; De Luynes 1402 (same obverse die).

Reprinted from Classical Numismatic Group, Inc (CNG).



### Library Report

The NI Library has received donations of the following books and periodicals.

From John Isles; issues of the *Journal of International Numismatics* and *The Journal of the Society for International Numismatics*.

From Bruce W. Smith; 3 seldom seen auctions from the 1970's by Phoenix Postal Auctions of South Africa.

*continued on page 157...*

## Counterfeit “Hybrid” Gold Cobs of South America

Herman Blanton, NI #LM115

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During the last few years I’ve noticed the appearance of counterfeit silver cobs made in gold. Two are presented here; these were identified and offered as counterfeit coins by different auction companies. This analysis was first presented in *Gaceta Numismática* 178/178, Septiembre / Diciembre 2010.

The first coin is a Potosí eight real in gold, which would make it an eight escudo.



*Cayón 11-Dic-2008, lote 1914 (enlarged)*

*Potosí. 8 reales. 1764. V. Fundición antigua en oro. 36'6 gr. MBC-/MBC. Muy interesante. Aunque falsa.*

From the description the coin weighs 36.6 grams, however, the specified mass for an eight escudo is 27.06 g (Burzio I: 182). Potosí did not produce gold cobs therefore there should not be any genuine coins. At 36.6 g the coin is 35% overweight so it doesn't make sense that it is a contemporary counterfeit.

The second coin is a counterfeit in gold of a silver one real, making it a one escudo. Surprisingly, the counterfeit was offered together with the original coin, a rare and useful occurrence. Right image is the original silver 1 real and left is the counterfeit.



*Hervera 14-Mayo-2009, lot 3303 (enlarged)*

*Lote 2 monedas 1 Real y reproducción. 1650. ¿POTOSÍ?. AR y AU. Moneda 1 Real y su reproducción en Oro. Macuquina. MBC.*



2 Escudo (Cayón)

Fortunately the original coin exists making attribution of the counterfeit definite. The original coin is a Santa Fe one real of 1650, the final year for this design in silver. In 1651 Santa Fe changed to the *Columnario* design. The reverse design for silver is a cross with Castile & Leon in the quadrants, for gold coins it is a cross with lily flowers in the quadrants like the illustrated two escudo from Santa Fe. Therefore the counterfeit in gold has an incorrect reverse design.

These counterfeits are unusual in that while copied from original coins, they are not made in the original metal. In fact they are made of more expensive material, gold instead of silver, which is why I call them hybrids. They are neither indigenous counterfeits from South America because such coins would not be good gold nor are they copies of genuine gold coins such as modern counterfeits coming from China.

Of course counterfeit coins are not a new invention; they have been around almost as long as genuine coins. I suspect these coins are not old and have probably been made within our own lifetime, perhaps during the last few years. It seems they were made for experimenting or practicing the casting process in gold. It is very possible that whoever made these two coins has made other coins too. While these two are Spanish coins and were in Spanish auctions it is quite possible the counterfeiter has also made other specimens in gold and could be copies of coins from different countries.

As is frequently the case with counterfeits there are few facts to work with and the assumptions I made may be wrong. If you have knowledge of the origins of these or similar coins please publish your information so other collectors can be aware of them.

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...from page 155

From Gordon N. Jarman; *Military Tokens of the United States* volume 2 (Overseas Issues) by Paul A. Cunningham.

From Frank Delorenzo; *Project Segovia* "92."

From Norman Cochrane; issues of the *OIN-Gram* by the Organization of International Numismatists.

And the following books from anonymous donors:

*Catalogo Unificato della Carta-Moneta Italiana*, 2001.

*Handbook of Ancient Greek and Roman Coins*, 1995, by Zander Klawans.

*Colección numismática Panameña*, 1982, by J. Conte Porras.

*The Art of Money*, 2000, by David Standish.

*Coins of the World*, 1976, by Richard G. Doty.

*Svensk koppar och kopparmyntning*, 1951.

David Gracey  
*NI*

## Book News and Reviews

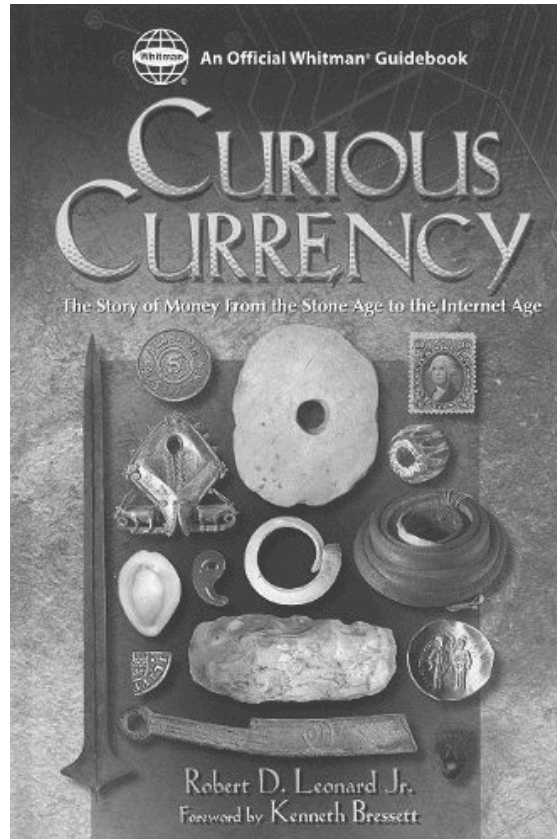
***Curious Currency—The Story of Money from the Stone Age to the Internet Age*** by Robert D. Leonard Jr. with foreword by Kenneth Bressett. For information on purchasing this reference you can contact: Whitman Publishing, LLC, 3103 Clairmont Road, Suite B, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, phone (800) 546-2995, [www.whitmanbooks.com](http://www.whitmanbooks.com), or Email [info@whitmanbooks.com](mailto:info@whitmanbooks.com).

Robert D. Leonard Jr. has written a small interesting hard cover guidebook (160 pages, 6 x 9 inches) covering the story of money from the Stone Age to the Internet age. *Curious Currency* is profusely illustrated with full color pictures of most of the different types of money discussed. It explains what money is and then tells something about the many different kinds of money. We think the two pages containing information on "What is Money?" is excellent.

Some of the many items covered are slaves, Yap stones, Swedish plate money, shell beads, tea money, tobacco, distilled spirits, Siamese bullet money, feather coils, trade coins, paper money, parchment notes, wooden nickels, clamshell money, credit cards, debit cards, stamps and many others.

The book contains more than 200 full color pictures of the items discussed. The photos are exceptional, as they are for all Whitman references. Mr. Leonard groups the items under raw material, useful articles, ornaments, customary objects and money substitutes. In the "Useful Articles" chapter we thought it interesting that in 1998 teachers in the Altai Republic in central Russia, which borders Mongolia, China and Kazakhstan, were paid their monthly salaries in vodka because of the shortage of currency. This is only one of the many well done anecdotes contained in the book. Not very many books cover the gambit of money from the Stone Age to present and Mr. Leonard does it very well and in an easy to read format.

We personally found the pictures very familiar as the majority of the items pictured are from Nancy's brother's (Charles Opitz) collection. His book, *An Ethnographic Study of Traditional Money*, covers the same items and more, but in a more detailed form and in alphabetical order rather than by general groupings. Both books cover different markets so this is a welcome addition to numismatic research on the subject.



Reviewed by John and Nancy Wilson